

Spring is the season I enjoy most every year and flip ahead in the calendar to look forward to. It's a unique time of year where everything feels fresh and alive. January may be the official beginning of a new year, but spring always feels like my transition to the following year because of the beautiful plants, the planning for summer, and the perfectly unpredictable weather.

Every spring, the burgeoning plants that come to life rejuvenate my spirit after a long, plantless winter. The barrenness of winter, where I go months without seeing a patch of green and blossoming flowers, always dampens my spirit. Spring is always the perfect remedy to this lack of color and my mood is always invigorated when I see my mother's plants slowly rise from the ground and rejoice in their new life.

Not only does nature begin to make a strong comeback, but spring is also the time to begin planning for summer. With school coming to a close and studying at its peak, there is always the wonderful events of the summer to plan ahead for. Whether it be planning a visit to my grandparents' home, or a trip to see an old friend, it's always exciting to plan for the future. This activity always generates optimism in my life and contributes to the overall mood of spring.

Spring's unpredictable weather that swiftly transitions from cloudy and rainy to bright and sunny adds an element of surprise to everyday life. Unlike in the summer, where nearly every day seems to be unbearably hot and humid, spring has a pleasurable temperature to it that never remains the same for long. Other people may groan when the weather shifts from a perfectly sunny day to 15 degrees cooler and rainy, but I enjoy the transition because both types of weather appeal to me and the lack of stagnant winter temperatures.

Spring is a season of all sorts of transitions and is a wonderful start to a new year. Beautiful plants, new plans, and wonderfully unpredictable weather all make for a season of fresh starts and new experiences. How could any other season compete with such an invigorating time of year that encourages an appreciation of beauty and changes in all aspects of life?

Organization/Purpose: Score 4

- Response has a clear and effective structure: the focus on spring's unique features and changes is maintained throughout.
- Transitional devices such as "not only" and the repetition of key phrases such as "unpredictable" and "transitions" help maintain focus on the aspects of spring the writer wants to emphasize.
- The introduction and conclusion are effective and focus on the same theme: spring's fresh and invigorating qualities.

Evidence/Elaboration: Score 4

- The support to the main idea is specific and relevant: details contrasting the barrenness of winter and excessive heat of summer with the changing and less predictable temperatures and physical features (green trees, flowers) of spring support the central idea with relevant details.
- Elaborative techniques are varied: the use of sensory language, identifying the relationship between the writer's internal mood and the external features of spring, and using comparison-contrast all provide specific support.
- Vocabulary is sophisticated: "rejuvenate," "is generates optimism," and "invigorating."
- Style is appropriate and enhances content: informal style that is appropriate to this general subject.

Conventions: Score 2

- Sentence structure has variety and enhances the development of the main idea.

“Spring’s unpredictable weather that swiftly transitions from cloudy and rainy to bright and sunny adds an element of surprise to everyday life.”

- Few errors in punctuation: none are distracting.
- No errors in grammar or usage.